Vol. III. Numb. 156.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the moſt

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

Perform'd by ſome of the Society of GENTLEMEN, *Concern'd in the Firſt and Second* VOLUME, *with the Aſſiſtance of other Ingenious* PERSONS.

From **Wedneſday** March 21ſt. to **Friday** March 23d. 1711.

WHEREAS the Subſcribers to this Paper paid their Quarteridge to the Perſons who deliver'd out the ſame, this is therefore to give Notice that after *Lady Day* next, the Proprietor of this Paper will employ a Servant of his own to Collect the ſame, and that all Subſcribers are deſired to pay the ſame as ſoon as called for to the ſaid Servant who will give a Printed Receipt for the ſame, Sign'd by

J. Mayo.

† *NOTE*, This Paper has for theſe 3 Volumes been Subſcribed for, and deliver'd in at the Perſons Houſes who took in the ſame. This is therefore to give Notice to all ſuch for the future, that after *Lady-Day* next, the ſaid Paper will be Publiſhed by the Hawkers who carries the other News. It will be Publiſhed *Mondays*, *Wedneſdays* and *Fridays*, as uſual, in a half Sheet in a ſmall fair, Character, which will contain as much variety of Humorous Queſtions as the whole Sheet. *N. B* The Authors having had encouragement to continue the Paper thus long, they reſolve to allow more time upon it to make it more entertaining than ever. *Note* alſo, any Perſon may have the 2d or 3d Volumes in Folio, containing about 200 Anſwers to Curious Queſtions, in moſt Arts and Sciences, at 12*s*. Gilt Edges and Letter'd on the Back, of *J. Mayo*, at the *Printing-Preſs* againſt *Water-Lane* in *Fleet-Street*, where Letters with Queſtions are to be ſent and great care will be taken to Anſwer all ſuch as are worthy of the ſame.

GENTLEMEN,

Q. A *Learned Gentleman that Co-habits with me, endeavoured to prove, that the Dragon mentioned in the Apocrypha, was a living Creature, but I am of Opinion that it was an Image, that was made in the Repreſentation of an animated Dragon: I having a greater ſhare of Conceitedneſs than Ability to diſprove his Aſſertion, would inſiſt upon my Argument. Which I founded upon the ſubſequent Verſe, where it is thus ſpecified,* viz. Then Daniel took Pitch and Fat and Hair, and ſeethe them together, and made Lumps thereof. This he put in the Dragon's Mouth, and the Dragon burſt aſunder. *The Conſequence, which I draw from this Verſe plainly Demonſtrates this Dragon, to be an Effigy compoſed of ſome Combuſtible Matter, that was ſubject to burſt aſunder by the adminiſtration of* Daniel's *Compoſition. Now,* Apollo *you muſt underſtand we have left the Diſpute to your Determination*

Yours B. F——w.

A. Had the Queriſt gone no farther than the Contents of that Story, we think he might have been convinced of his miſtake. For the Expreſſion is, that *Daniel ſlew* the Dragon which was worſhipped, but the Word *ſlay* or kill, cannot be properly applied to any other than living Creatures. And this is confirmed from the Diſtinction that is uſed in the Hiſtory itſelf, where it is ſaid (v. 28.) that *Daniel* had *deſtroyed Bel*, but *ſlain* the Dragon. If they had both been Effigies, the Hiſtorian wou'd have undoubtedly ſaid he *deſtroyed* both, and not made a needleſs Diſtinction of Words. If this Argument is not ſufficient againſt the Queriſt, we hope to ſatisfy him from the following Account which *Joſephus* gives of this Matter. " As ſoon as *Daniel* had departed from the " King, he prepared Iron Inſtruments like Combs, " that are uſed for cleanſing of Lint, & joined them " Back to Back, the ſharp Points of them ſtick out " on every Side, to which he faſtened ſeveral ſorts " of Meat, eſpecially ſuch as was Fat, and alſo " made uſe of a Dawbing of Sulphur and Pitch, " to cover the ſharp Points or Teeth of the Inſtru- " ment. This Morſel thus prepared *Daniel* caſt " into the Dragon's Mouth, which it greedily " ſwallowed up at once: but the Fat melting in " its Stomach left the ſharp Points naked, which " piercing through its Gutts put it to exquiſite " Torment, ſo that it fell down and died the Day " following.

Q. Gentlemen, *I desire you in your next to shew me the easiest Way of finding out the Age of the Moon at any Time without having Recourse to an Ephemeris.*

A. The most usual Way of doing this is to add these Threee Numbers together. *viz.* the Epact of the Year current, the Number of Months from March inclusively, and the Day of the Month proposed. The Summ of them if it be less than 30 is the very Age of the Moon, more, substract 30 from it, and the remainder will give the Moon's Age. As, if the Moon's Age were sought for on the 26th of August this present Year 1711. The Epact (which is found by Multiplying the Golden Number of the Year Current by 11 and taking the Product of it if less than 30, if more, the Remainder after it is Divided by 30) is 22, the Number of Months from March inclusively 6 the Day proposed 26, the Summ 54. substracting 30, gives 24 for the Day of the Moon's Age. But it must be observed that if the Moon's Age is sought for in January or March, the Number of Months from March inclusively is to be omitted, if in February or in April add only one to the Epact and Day of the Month proposed. It is also to be observed that though the Age of the Moon cannot be accurately determined by the Epact, because a Lunar Synodical Month is here supposed to contain 30 Days, when it really contains only 29½ Days, yet the Error in this Method never amounts to a whole Day, so that it is safe enough for common Use.

Q. Gentlemen, *The Perpendicular falling upon the Hypotenuse, and Summ of the Sides in a right-angled Triangle being given, how shall I find the Triangle?*

A. This may be presently done thus. Let the Summ of the Sides be a, the Difference y, the Perpendicular falling upon the Hypotenuse b, and the Hypotenuse x. Hence the greater Side may be expressed thus $\frac{a+y}{2}$, and the less thus $\frac{a-y}{2}$, so that $\frac{aa+yy}{2}$ will be equal to the Squares of the greater and less side, and consequently equal to the Square of the Hypotenuse which is xx, and $\frac{aa-yy}{4b} = x$. Therefore $2xx-aa=yy=aa-4bx$, and $xx=aa-2bx$, and the Root being extracted $x=b+\sqrt{bb+aa}$. The Hypotenuse being found the Investigation of the sides is very easy, as we have shewn in a former Paper.

Q. *What is the Reason that a little before and after the New Moon, when the Moon is yet cornated, the obscure Part of it is visible, and affords a dusky Light, which notwithstanding at any other Time is wholy invisible,*

A. This *Phænomenon* induced many of the ancient Astronomers to believe that the Moon has some Light of its own, and does not borrow all from the Sun. But the observation of the *Phænomenon* it self confutes this Opinion, since this dusky Light is never visible, unless three or four Days before and after the New Moon; whereas if it were the Moon's native Light, we shou'd undoubtedly see it, till the greater Light of the Sun has illuminated the whole Disk of the Moon. The Reason therefore of the *Phænomenon* can be no other than the Earth's reflecting of the Sun's Light, which may be easily done near the Time of the New Moon; because almost the whole Hemisphere of the Earth does then appear enlightened to the Moon. As we find the Earth it self illuminated by the reflected Light of the Moon; so the Moon on the contrary is illuminated by the reflected Light of the Earth, and that much more, since the one is Fifthteen Times as great as the other. But as soon as the Moon has got out of the way of the Earth's reflect Light, this dusky Light of it vanishes.

Q. SIR, *There having been several Wagers laid on the Sense of the following Lines.*

If my Wife were as little as she's good,
One Inch of Cloath would make her Gown and Hood.

The contending Parties thought they could not refer it to a more competent Judge than Apollo *himself; by consent therefore they desir'd to give you the trouble to have your Decision what kind of a Woman the Husband meant his Wife when he told her so, what Sense the Lines are capible of, without straining them, and whether he could design them for a Satyr or Commendation. Your answer and Resolution with the first, will highly oblige,*

Your most devoted Servant,

Phaeton.

A. The saying will bear no other meaning, but that she was stark naught. In like manner it may be said of our Querist (by his wife Question) were he as little as he is witty, an Inch of Cloath wou'd make him a Suit and Cloak. Did the other *Phaeton* take such humble Flights, it was no wonder he set the lower World a Fire.

Q. Gentlemen, *I hope without trouble to you, I by this return you Thanks, for your taking notice of my Questions, about Wiggs and Bombs. A Friend of mine, when I was at* Lynn-mart *in* Norfolk, *desir'd me to ask you these Questions, and in discharge of my Trust I did it. But since you have not resolved about Wiggs; I therefore tell you, that in my way Home, one in Company telling of Stories, said that the Banditti of* France, *when they were numerous, did disguise themselves with a sort of Wiggs they invented, and therefore it seems since that they were the first. It was that Rendition the Captain whereof (as the Story saith) apply'd himself to the King, and when obtain'd a Promise of Favour discover'd himself, and when pardoned, advised the King to inflict a more painful Death than hanging, for that was slighted by Banditti Men; upon which the Punishment of Breaking upon the Wheel was inacted, and that hath quash'd the Banditti ever since.*

And now I have had your Opinion, Gentlemen, *I shall return my Friend an Answer; and I may tell you that these Questions to you, was the first of my sending to any publick Writer, tho' I have often been in the mind to send, yet to avoid either singularity or Contempt I have forborn.*

Gentlemen,

Your obliged, C. D.

A. Any that are read in History, will satisfy you that false Hair hath been often worn before that Story of the Banditti.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

POEMS.

Q. APOLLO, *I have oft been told,*
All Myſteries you can unfold;
Nay, be the Queſtion ne'er ſo nice,
You will reſolve it in a trice:
Incline your Godſhip *to my Doubt,*
For I am poz'd to find it out.
This Nation *hath obtain'd a Name*
(Whether from good or evil Fame)
Of Fickle, *being ſtill inclin'd,*
To Novelty *of ev'ry kind:*
And Whims ridiculous to purſue,
For nothing but for being New.
If any ugly Monſter's brought,
And but ſome apiſh Actions taught,
The People all croud to the Sight,
('S if Ugliness cou'd give delight)
Six Dancing Dogs *were brought from* France,
The Ladies throng'd to ſee 'em dance;
Tho' all the Art which was obſerv'd,
Was that the Curs *being almoſt ſtarv'd;*
A Woman hobbled with ſome Meat,
Before 'em, but conceal'd the Cheat;
Which they purſuing by the Scent,
After in awkward Motions went.
The Ladies, doubtleſs, thought it was
A Miracle to bring't to paſs.
A moving Picture *after came,*
The Town ſurprizing with its Fame;
Which tho' it was Mechanic Motion,
Perform'd by Noddle without Notion;
The little Dogs were ſtrait forgoten,
As if they'd long been dead and rotten,
And all in mighty hurry croud,
To tell the Picture's *Fame aloud;*
Nor any was fit for Converſe,
That cou'd not all the Scenes rehearſe.
But now a wonder comes more big,
That's Punchanello on a Pig;
Why who cou'd dream that ſuch a Fellow,
As burſten'd Hump-back'd Punchanello,
Cou'd govern ſuch unruly Swine,
Except 'twas by a Pow'r Divine!
The Ladies all flock to the ſhew,
As wonderful, as well as New;
And at Tea-Table *muſt be mute,*
Except they'd ſeen Punch *on the* Brute.
The Picture *now a fooliſh Fancy*
They think, ſince ſtranger Things they can ſee.
And if a Fellow after come,
With Hoſe on Head, and Hat on Bum,
The Pig *and* Punch *wou'd be forgot,*
And all ſtare at the ill-faſhion'd Sot.

Now is it that the Moon *here gains*
Greater Aſcendant o'er our Brains,
And to her Nature them inclines,
As in her Full, *or* wain *ſhe ſhines;*
Or do ſome Frantick Dæmons *gather*
Aloft in foul, Tempeſtuous Weather,
And ſcatter 'mongſt poor Mortals hence
Their Tranſmigrating Influence,
Or are we to ſuch Whimeys led,
By Maggots breeding in the Head,
Which have ſo long their Rule enjoy'd,
That they can never be deſtroy'd;
Say, dear Apollo, *ſay the cauſe,*
Of ſuch Effects, which own no Laws;
By which we are 'thout Mittigation,
So Ridicul'd by ev'ry Nation.

A. Search after *Novelty's* inclin'd,
By th' nobleſt Function of the Mind;
For 'tis a *Thirſt* of *Knowledg*, which
Does the capacious Soul inrich:
They muſt expect a poor event,
Who are with what they *know*, *content*,
And ſhews a wretched Impotence,
And *Soul's* are fetter'd up by Senſe.
Then ſince it is the active Nature,
Of ev'ry reaſonable Creature,
With Induſtry ſtill to purſue
Diſcovery of what is new,
So each does for the Chace prepare,
According as his Talents are.
The learn'd and the wiſer ſeek the prize.
In *Nature's* ſecret Myſteries;
Trace ev'ry *Cauſe*, 'till they attain,
To the firſt Link of all their Chain:
And others (no Ignoble Part)
Make new diſcoveries in Art,
As This invents ſo That improves,
And each Walks in the *Path* He loves.
But they who cant arrive thus high,
In humbler Tracks to Knowledg fly,
For, tis ſome Pleaſure to know more,
(Tho little) than they did before:
And theſe in ev'ry *ſhew* Delight,
That New or Odd appears to fight:
Nor that their Numbers great is ſtrange,
Who thus are pleas'd with any change;
Since they who *Images* purſue
Far nobler are ſo very few

Q. *Tho' I once hated Marriage,*
I'm now in the Mind,
If you will name one
Will be conſtant and kind,
I many have courted,
But ne'er cou'd perceive,

A Maid any hopes,
Of thoſe Virtues cou'd give.

A. We many cou'd name,
To a *merriting Lover,*
But think their Deſerts,
Are above ſuch a *Rover.*

SIR,

Falmouth, March the 17th.

THIS Day came in here from Cruizing, Her Majeſty's Ships the South-ſea-Caſtle, Pearl and Dunwich, who Yeſterday, off the French Coaſt, met the Joſepth-Gally of Lisbon, and a Ship of 36 Guns from Rotterdam for Nauls, with Powder, Arms, Pitch, Tar, &c. and brought them both in as Prizes, at the ſame time the Flying-Mercury of Fluſhing, brought in a French Privateer of 12 Guns, that had been out 5 Days without Purchaſe.

Plymouth, the 18th. Yeſterday came in Her Majeſty's Ships Kent and Eſſex, from the Downs, and under Convoy 6 Tranſports bound for Ireland, 4 Veſſels from London, with Groceries, and 5 or 6 with Stores, Malt, &c. all for this Place.

Harwitch, the 20th. Yeſterday arrived the Canterbury, St. Albans, Debtford, Rumney and 2 other Men of War, Convoy for the Tranſports to Holland.

On Tueſday laſt, his Grace the Duke of Argyle ſet out for Spain. Roger Nillart, Eſq; is made one of the Agents for Taxes, in the room of Robert Barker, Eſq.

We hear his Excellency Pietro Grimani Ambaſſador to her Majeſty, from the Republick of Venice is preparing a ſplendid Equipage in order to make his publick Entry the 23d. of next Month. The Guards continue ſtill to be doubled at St. James's; And a Party of Horſe is ſent to the Play-Houſe in Drury-Dane to prevent any diſturbances that might ariſe.

On Munday laſt the Bank of England held a general Court, and reſolved to call in a Million Sterlin for Circulating Exchequer-Bills, and this Day they open their Books to take in Subſcriptions for calling in 20 *per Cent.*

Which is all from Yours, *&c.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT the Office of Inſurance on Marriage, in *Bolt-Court, Fleet-Street,* any Perſon by Paying 2 s. for a Policy, Stamps and 2 *s.* towards each Marriage, until their own, or the Marriage of any other Perſon may ſecure to themſelves 200 *l.* *Note,* tho' this Office began but the 2d of *January,* there are above 1800 Subſcribers, out of which no more than 26 Married this Year, who have received from 12 *l.* to 140 *l.* at the ſmall Charge of 4 *s.* to 12 *s.* the 26 Claimants having paid no more than 14 *l.* for 2500 *l.* which will appear by their Receipts, which may be ſeen at the Office, and the Perſons are all ready and willing to teſtify the Truth hereof: Wherefore 'tis hoped the Profits which are daily increaſing, will induce all Perſons who conſult their own Intereſt to incourage this which has given ſuch convincing Proofs by regular Payments of its Fairneſs and Advantage. At the ſame Place is a Second Inſurance, where any Perſons paying 5 *s.* for a Policy and Entrance, and 5 *s.* towards each Marriage, may Secure to themſelves 500 *l.* Propoſals may be had *Gratis.*

HOlman's London Ink-Powder for Records. Moſt Excellent for all Perſons to make their Writing-Ink as black and as ſtrong as they pleaſe. Each Six penny Paper makes a Pint of the beſt, or Pint and half, or Quart for Shopkeepers common Writing or Marking Ink, only by often ſhaking or ſtirring it in ſo much Rain or River Water; and it amends all weak and pale Ink, or Ink ſpoiled by the Froſt, and Directions to each Paper of Powder, to prevent Ink from Freezing. 'Tis Sold by moſt Stationers, Bookſellers and Haberdaſhers in and about London; and by Shop-keepers in the chiefeſt Cities and Towns in England. And that none may be impoſed on by any falſe Pretenders, Cheats or Countery feits, this only has been publickly Experienced for many Years, and Patent Granted under the Great Seal of England to Charles Holman in Red-Lion-Street in Southwark, for the making the ſame; where you may have alſo his beſt Ink made for all Valuable Writings, being well Appoved in Her Majeſties Offices.

THE Incomparable Necklaces, prepared by Major John Choke, one of King Charles Chymiſt, and in a manner maraculous, which abſolutely eaſeth Children in breeding and cutting Teeth without Pain, thereby preventing Feavours, Rupures, Convulſions and ſuch attendant Diſtempers; and are to be Sold at 5 *s.* a piece, with Directtions and Names of ſeveral worthy Parents who have experienc'd them and Places were they live, that you may not be deceived. Sealed with this Coat of Arms, if otherwiſe they are Countefeits. They are only to be ſold by Mrs. Garway, at her Shop the *South Entrance* of the *Royal Exchange.*

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